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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

High -1°C/Low -9°C Snow showers

GTA employers less likely to hire recent graduates

JOBS

Technology part of what's driving trend, study found

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Feeling the job market crunch? It's about to get worse.

Results from a recent George Brown College study show fewer employers in the GTA are looking to hire recent college or university grads. Employers also said they're more likely to hire for part-time or contract positions — not permanent jobs.

"It's a sign the job market is going to be much more complex and competitive," said Debra Iafrate, the school's career services manager.

Part of what's driving the trend appears to be technology. According to the report, a third of all current jobs are projected to be replaced by machines over the next 15 years.

George Brown has been conducting employer research since 2008, analyzing trends in order to equip students for the modern job market. Part of that involves giving students practical experience or work placements before they graduate, Iafrate said.

"Post-secondary education will still increase your chances of getting a job but you need to do more," she said.

Deena Ladd of Workers Action Centre said the shift towards contract work and "just in-time hiring" is hurting both workers and the economy.

"There used to be a time when employers invested time and training to develop their workforce," she said. "Unfortunately they now seem to think it should just be provided at the drop of a hat."

That's not always good for business, Ladd said. Precarious positions are more likely to see higher turnover, she noted, which in turn can hamper a company's ability to plan ahead.

"We've seen a complete deterioration in working conditions for the past 15 years," she said. "This whole notion that you should just be able to click your fingers and get the person you want for the job is a complete fallacy."

PITCH PERFECT

Blue Jays open season with a road win

Ticket costs up
metroNEWS

Game coverage
metroSPORTS

Marcus Stroman pitches in the ninth inning versus The Rays, Sunday, in St. Petersburg, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TORONTO, APRIL 7

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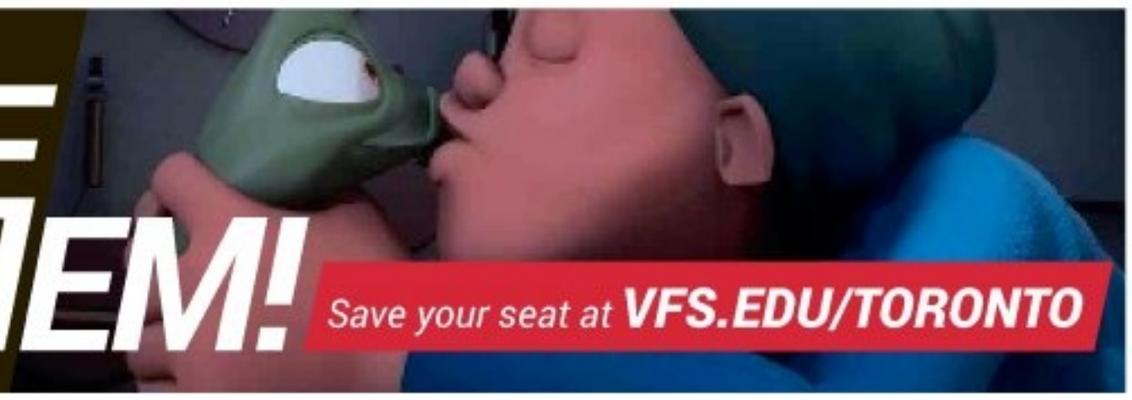

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Poll shows Canadians finding it harder to feed their families. **Business**

It costs more to be a Jays fan

BASEBALL

Ticket prices up 10 per cent but opener still sells out fast

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The success of the Toronto Blue Jays last season has raised fans' expectations. It's also raised ticket prices.

Whether you're a season ticket holder or just jumping on the bandwagon, you can expect to pay more to take yourself out to the ball game. On average, ticket prices for Jays games have gone up 10 per cent over last year.

Regular games will cost between $3 and $6 extra, while so-called "premium games" against popular opponents will cost between $4 and $10 more.

The new prices haven't deterred fans. Tickets for Friday's home opener sold out in 45 minutes when they went on sale in February, and single-game ticket sales are on the rise.

Fans desperate to get into Friday's game aren't out of options, either. StubHub still had a handful of upper-level tickets for the game on offer Sunday — with some going for as little as $50.

Toronto Blue Jays fans, from left, Geoff Lynch, Mike Winestock, Tara Oliphant, Michelle Dunk, Katelyn Smith and Dan Kirkby take in the season opener against the Tampa Bay Rays at Real Sports Bar & Grill on York Street, Sunday. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

ROGERS CENTRE

Baseball fans fall for April Fool's Day prank

An April Fool's prank by a local blog touched a nerve for Toronto baseball fans. On Friday, BlogTO published a story claiming the Rogers Centre would be given its old name back in advance of the Jays' 40th season opener, allowing fans to once again cheer for the team inside the SkyDome. The news was credited to Rogers spokeswoman Avril Tromper, which loosely translates to April Fool in French. The subtle hint was missed by nostalgic fans who rejoiced at the name change. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

However, for the frugal fan, Saturday and Sunday's matches against the Boston Red Sox are the better deal. Tickets for the weekend games were selling for $15 on Stubhub.

And when the New York Yankees come to town the following week, fans will be able to enjoy the games for less than $10 — provided they don't mind sitting in the nosebleeds.

Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"I am interested in hearing what people have to say, but I am not generally one to go announcing or declaring my political voice. Also, people are so sensitive nowadays that you can't say something without stepping on someone's toes. I am just not in the mood for going out for a coffee and stepping on five people's toes. So, I'll keep it to myself.

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. Selections from her work feature weekly in Metro. See more at Humans_of_Toronto on Instagram.

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Shooting victim killed after memorial

Julian Weekes TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Julian Weekes died near event for his friend

Toronto police say the man killed in a Corktown shooting Saturday morning was attending a memorial for a friend who was himself fatally shot last month.

Police were called to a Shell gas station parking lot at Parliament St. and Richmond St. E. just after 2 a.m. Saturday after reports of gunshots.

They arrived to find the victim, identified Sunday as 27-year-old Julian Weekes, "clinging to life," with multiple gunshot wounds. Efforts were made by paramedics, but he was subsequently pronounced dead on scene.

After following a trail of blood, investigators determined the shooting happened a short distance away outside Annie's Bar and Grill on Queen St. E.

Witnesses reported Weekes was running and walking along Queen and southbound on Parliament and appeared to be intoxicated, police said. They say Weekes attempted to get help by banging on cars driving by, but none of them stopped.

In a news conference Sunday, Det. Sgt. Michael Patterson said that before Weekes was shot he was attending a memorial celebration at Annie's that night for his friend Ceyon Carrington, who was gunned down in a Leslieville alleyway on March 23. Patterson said circumstances in the two homicides were similar, and that Carrington was also shot "by a coward carrying a gun."

There is no information to confirm links between the shootings at this point in the investigation. Police believe a single shooter was involved in Weekes' death and they can only describe the suspect as an "athletic male."

Patterson said Weekes was known to police. He comes from a "very hardworking family" and leaves behind his girlfriend, parents and three siblings.

Police are urging three cyclists riding down Parliament St. who witnessed the incident to come forward with information, as well as Weekes' friends who attended the memorial at Annie's Bar.

"Somebody has to step up and stop this," Patterson said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Viryl Technologies CEO Chad Brown TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MUSIC

Numbers point to the return of vinyl

Trounced first by the cassette, then by its shinier, pricier successor, the CD, vinyl records are back in the game. After nine years of steady growth, the vintage recording format has re-emerged as a contender in the music industry.

While revenues from CDs were down 17 per cent at $1.5 billion last year, sales of vinyl LPs increased 32 per cent to $416 million US — their highest level since 1988, according to the Recording Industry Association of America's Year-End Sales & Shipments Data Report.

That's more money than the industry made in advertising on free-tier streaming services such as YouTube and Spotify, which only grew 31 per cent to $385 million in the same period.

In Canada, vinyl sales were up nearly a third in 2015, posting their biggest overall sales total in the SoundScan era, reports Nielsen Music. And for the first 12 weeks of 2016, vinyl sales are up 26 per cent over the same period last year.

The challenge: there are few vinyl presses still around, and the renewed interest has created a backlog of orders.

"The big problem now is trying to make street dates for vinyl as well as CD," said Tim Baker, head buyer at the Sunrise Records chain, where sales are now split between vinyl and CD.

A GTA company is hoping to provide the solution. Operating out of an Etobicoke warehouse, with nine full-time employees and a $1 million investment, Viryl Technologies Corp. has developed a fully automatic, modernized record press that is scheduled to start shipping this summer.

There's currently just one vinyl pressing plant in Canada and about 17 in the U.S. The majority use original or refurbished equipment built 30 to 60 years ago. Some use contemporary replicas of the old machines. But Viryl is among the first to design and build a press utilizing new, digital technology.

"Digital necessarily isn't better for music, but it's certainly better for stuff like controls on presses," said Viryl CEO Chad Brown, who ran defunct Markham pressing plant Acme Vinyl for several years in the 2000s.

After the medical technology firm he worked for was sold in 2014, the Barrie native joined former colleagues and fellow engineers James Hashmi and Rob Brown to devise the new press.

"My friends that were still in the music industry were like, 'This is taking eight months to get a record out, we're missing our marketing days, this is getting dire now,' " Brown recalled. "So we started digging into this to see if there would be a taste for the market; it turns out there is."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MAPPED

TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

Pedestrian traffic fatalities in 2016

69 YEARS OLD | **Average victim's age**

1 Kennedy Road & Ellesmere Road
Sunday, Jan. 3
39-year-old man

2 Bayview Avenue & Eglinton Avenue E.
Friday, Jan. 15
85-year-old woman

3 Sheppard Avenue E. & Chichester Place
Sunday, Jan. 17
79-year-old man

4 Dundas Street W. & Poplar Avenue
Thursday, Jan 28
49-year-old woman

5 Dufferin Street & Armstrong Avenue
Saturday, Jan. 30
90-year-old woman

6 Wedgewood Drive & Tobruk Crescent
Wednesday, Feb. 10
84-year-old man

7 Finch Avenue W. & Tobermory Drive
Saturday, Feb. 13
72-year-old woman

8 Dawes Road & Secord Avenue
Thursday, Feb. 18
74-year-old woman

9 MacDonnell Avenue & Queen Street W.
Thursday, Feb. 18
70-year-old man

10 Queen Street E. & Jarvis Street
Friday, March 4
Woman in her 40s

11 333 King St E.
Tuesday, March 22
79-year-old woman

12 Finch Avenue E. & Skymark Drive
Tuesday, March 29
76-year-old woman

NEW FATALITY
Markham Road & Nashdene Road

Thursday, March 31
A 56-year-old woman was attempting to cross Markham Road when she was hit and killed by a black Mercedes Benz. The driver fled the scene. Police were hunting for 25-year-old Saeed Moravvej Torbati.

TEXT: METRO
GRAPHIC: ANDRES PLANA/METRO

Gardiner Museum starts up sculpture competition

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A new piece of art is coming to the Gardiner Museum's front yard.

The museum has launched a national sculpture competition, calling all artists — whether they've worked in clay or not — to submit ideas for an original piece. The winning work will be positioned alongside the Jun Kaneko head, forming a duo of prominent monuments near Queen's Park.

The new sculpture will officially be revealed in the summer of 2017, in time for Canada's 150th anniversary.

"It definitely has to be something that looks great on the plaza," said CEO Kelvin Browne, hoping the winning sculpture will generate as much praise and admiration as the black-and-white striped head that's been there since 2013.

Proposals will be vetted down to five finalists, at which point a panel of five judges — including novelist Douglas Coupland — will decide the winner.

The Jun Kaneko head has been a fixture at the Gardiner Museum since 2013. COURTESY JUN KANEKO

Browne hopes the national scope of the competition will draw public attention to how wide-ranging clay sculpture can be.

"We want to help artists show that ceramic work isn't just about little artwork," he said, adding many local and international painters and sculptors are increasingly using clay in their repertoire.

"It can be really big and contemporary, just like any other form of art."

> **Ceramic work isn't just about little artwork.**
> Kelvin Browne

HISTORY

A sign of times past for Ed's customers

Shoppers lined up the length of Honest Ed's on Bloor Street W. on Sunday for a rare chance to buy a piece of Toronto history — one or more of the store's hand-painted signs — before the bargain emporium turns off the lights for good at the end of this year.

General manager Russell Lazar, who started working there in 1958, welcomed customers wearing a T-shirt saying "Thanks for the memories" as shoppers flocked to snare a souvenir before the store makes way for a planned housing development.

More than 10,000 signs were expected to be sold over the weekend.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jennifer Greenwood and her sons at Honest Ed's hand-painted sign sale on Sunday. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Campaigning for more level elections

DEMOCRACY

Report shows developers' contributions affect results

Developer contributions made to the election campaigns of municipal candidates directly influence the outcomes of local elections, says a report being released Monday that analyzes the financial statements of candidates who ran in 13 municipalities around the Lake Simcoe watershed in 2014 — including a handful within the GTA.

The report called If It's Broke, Fix It: a Report on the Money in Municipal Campaign Finances of 2014, prepared by a grassroots group, Campaign Fairness Ontario, found that candidates who took contributions from developers were twice as likely to be elected as those who did not report such contributions.

The group says it is concerned about the "troubling relationship between corporate funding and election outcomes in Ontario" and is calling for the province to allow municipalities to "ban corporate and union contributions to municipal election campaigns" — similar to what Toronto opted for in 2009, prior to the 2010 municipal election.

"Development funding is still the largest component of corporate funding, and that is worrisome," said York University political-science professor Robert MacDermid, who analyzed the financial statements of nearly 300 candidates who ran in 13 municipalities, including Newmarket, Barrie, Aurora and Orillia, in 2014. "And most of it comes from outside the municipality," he said.

"This money is flowing into local elections from outside, and it represents interests outside ... and to some degree potentially distorts what representative politics should be about," he said.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has confirmed it will make an announcement on Monday about changes to the Municipal Elections Act, which would "give municipalities more local choice in future municipal elections," according Mark Cripps, a spokesman with Minister Ted McMeekin's office.

Monday's announcement is also expected to include legislation allowing municipalities to use ranked ballots in the 2018 election, a move Toronto council once endorsed before voting to reverse its position in 2015.

On Friday, Premier Kathleen Wynne said the civic changes are "further evidence that this is something that we have been looking at for some time."

MacDermid says the influence of the development industry on elections is not remote and directly affects the quality of life of residents.

"Just look at the GTA," he said. "There is urban sprawl everywhere. That was developer choices and politician's choices.

"The evidence is everywhere for us to see about what was the impact of this relationship. We are all paying the cost of this relationship." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

There is urban sprawl everywhere. That was developer choices and politician's choices.... We are all paying the cost of this relationship.
Prof. Robert MacDermid

The report found candidates who took money from developers were twice as likely to be elected. MARCUS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY REVEALS EXPENSE OF ROB FORD LYING IN REPOSE

Toronto City Hall shelled out $18,676 to cover the cost of Rob Ford lying in repose for two days. The biggest chunk ($11,539 of that) came from increased security, including contracted staff and overtime, according to numbers provided Friday to Metro.

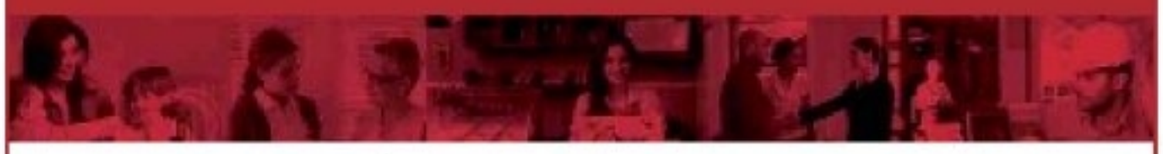
Other costs: $1,500 for the Toronto Paramedic Services' honour guard; $1,226 for refreshments; $4,411 overtime for staff in facilities management and protocol services.

"All costs are being covered out of existing budgets," said Jackie DeSouza, Toronto's director of strategic communications.

Any costs accrued by departments outside city hall — such as the police — would be on top of the $18,676, she noted.

Ford died March 22 after a battle with cancer. His funeral was March 30, following two days during which thousands of people visited his casket in the city hall rotunda. METRO

Seneca



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Big bucks not a road to victory

EXPENSES

Money doesn't guarantee election results, analysis shows

Money can't buy you votes.

Or so it would seem, according to campaign financial reports filed with Elections Canada by the men and women who were seeking a House of Commons seat in last fall's federal election.

More often than not, the biggest spenders did not win on Oct. 19, an analysis by The Canadian Press indicates.

And while spending big bucks didn't necessarily guarantee victory, not spending enough to at least stay competitive with rival candidates was an almost certain path to defeat, the analysis shows.

Of the top 100 spenders in the election, 57 failed in their election bids, with 12 of those losing to a competitor who also cracked the top 100.

The results among the top 50 spenders were even worse, with about three-fifths of them — 31 candidates in all — running unsuccessfully. Of those, six lost to another candidate in the top 50.

The analysis is based on expenses reported by candidates that counted as part of their legal spending limits. It did not include personal and other expenses — like gas and mileage for a personal vehicle, child care or thank-you receptions for volunteers — which must be reported to Elections Canada but don't count against the spending cap.

The analysis may help explain why the marathon 11-week campaign came down to a battle between the better-resourced Liberals and Conservatives, with the NDP and Greens squeezed out.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at Liberal party headquarters in Montreal after winning the election. An analysis shows that the biggest spenders did not win on Oct. 19. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

On average, Conservative candidates spent $90,665, outpacing the average $71,660 spent by Liberals. The average New Democrat candidate spent just $54,404 while the average Green spent a measly $12,642.

University of Manitoba political scientist Royce Koop said there's no doubt money can help a candidate win, particularly in a close-fought riding.

"If you run a good campaign, well-funded campaign, well-staffed, you're going to be able to get just ahead of your opponent and it turns out Canadian elections are getting more competitive. We're seeing more of these competitive races, so the importance of local campaigns and local spending and local campaign workers has become more important," Koop said.

Candidate spending limits for the 2015 campaign varied from riding to riding, based on geographic size and population — from a high of $279,227 in Kootenay-Columbia to a low of $169,928 in Egmont. Under new election rules imposed by the previous Conservative government, the spending caps for the lengthy campaign were more than twice what they would have been for a more typical five-week federal contest.

That was widely seen as benefiting the Conservatives, whose riding associations across the country had amassed much deeper war chests.

Yet the analysis of the more than 1,500 candidate spending reports filed thus far suggests few took advantage of the increased limits.

Combined, candidates for the Liberals, Conservatives, NDP and Greens — the parties which ran full or nearly full slates in all 338 ridings across the country — were entitled to spend $296 million. Yet their actual spending fell far short: just under $63.1 million in total.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

90,665

Average expenses, subject to spending limits, by Conservative candidates

71,660

Average expenses, subject to spending limits, by Liberal candidates

54,404

Average expenses, subject to spending limits, by NDP candidates

9.6M

Total amount of personal or other expenses that didn't count as part of the spending limits, reported by Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Green candidates

2.96

Lowest amount expensed by any candidate who filed with Elections Canada by Conrad Lukawski of the Rhinoceros Party in Ottawa Centre

ONLINE

Refugees search for sponsors

Muneer al Zahabi had been in Jordan for nearly three years among over half a million Syrians there crammed into apartments and camps. It was safer than sleeping in the bathtub in their house in Syria for protection from missiles.

They wanted a home in another country. But his family is five of 4.2 million refugees.

So Zahabi took things into his own hands. On the Immigration Department website, he found the list of more than 80 organizations who hold agreements with the government to facilitate the private sponsorship of refugees. And he started emailing them.

Then the Liberals were elected and promised to resettle 25,000 Syrians. Private groups working with the formal sponsorship agreement holders started springing up across the country. So Zahabi looked them up, posting his story on their Facebook pages and directly emailing the websites of others. The response was often similar — disbelief, mistrust. But late last year, something clicked.

Patricia Chartier had helped set up the email address for her Toronto-based sponsorship group. She was shocked by how many letters came directly from Syrians.

Among the emails was Zahabi's. Something drew her in, and she began trying to find someone who would sponsor his family. Zahabi does not want to get his hopes up too high. But at least someone was finally willing to listen, he said, and in Chartier, he now has a Canadian friend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ontario

IN BRIEF

Woman in hospital after car plunges over cliff

Officials in Newfoundland say a woman is in hospital after she drove her car over a rocky cliff on the shores of St. John's.

St. John's platoon fire Chief Rick Mackey says the woman was driving the vehicle at the Signal Hill site Sunday morning when she somehow breached the gate. Mackey says she was thrown or jumped from the vehicle as it nosedived over the cliff just below Cabot Tower. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RISING COSTS

Rural areas struggle to fund policing

Smaller communities across the country have been grappling with what they view as an ever-increasing tax bite for policing they can barely afford.

Some say they have had to raise property taxes by as much as 20 to 30 per cent to pay for increases in police costs.

Christian Leuprecht, a professor at the Royal Military College of Canada, said rising security costs are hurting communities across Canada.

"The real problem is in the rural areas," Leuprecht said. "Their tax base is stagnant. They're cannibalizing all other aspects of their budget to pay for policing."

Some communities are seeing upwards of 25 or 30 per cent of their total budgets go toward policing. One hard-hit area is in rural eastern Ontario, where communities were surprised to discover they're paying tens of thousands of dollars for police service to wind turbines and cellphone towers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JOHN COOKSEY

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2nd Flip - profit $8,000
1 in construction - estimated profit $80,000
1 Commercial Property (4 commercial spaces, 17 residential) - estimated Cash Flow $34,000/mth
1 Purchased Duplex - $800/mth

Individual results may vary, some are better or worse because it depends on how much time, energy and money an individual puts into their real estate business. © 2016 NVCompanies. All Rights Reserved. Gifts and promotional materials may vary.

DEPORTATION OF MIGRANTS TO BEGIN A Syrian refugee holds a child carrying a placard reading "we ask the EU governments to help us," and a distressing claim, as refugees and migrants protest on Sunday. An agreement between the European Union and Turkey to deport migrants on Greek islands back to the Turkish mainland takes effect Monday morning. Migrants arriving in Greece will be sent to Turkey if they don't apply for asylum. For every person sent back, the EU would take in one person with a legitimate asylum request. AFP/GETTY IMAGES & THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Data released on offshore accounts

THE PANAMA PAPERS

Massive leak of documents is Canadian and global in scope

Michael Cooke
Editor In Chief | Toronto Star

Today, The Toronto Star begins publishing a week of investigative journalism based on what we believe to be the largest ever leak of documents.

The stories are Canadian and global in scope.

We're calling the series The Panama Papers.

The Star has partnered with more than 100 newspaper and TV news organizations in 76 countries involving 376 journalists working in 25 languages under the directing umbrella of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, based in Washington.

Why the Panama Papers? Because the leaked documents are the secret internal records of Mossack Fonseca, a Panamanian law firm that specializes in hiding money in tax havens such as Costa Rica, the British Virgin Islands, and the Seychelles.

The documents show how rich people divert money from government tax coffers to offshore tax havens. This is costing the rest of us hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

The documents — and there are millions of them — were given to German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung. They contain the passports of 350 Canadians, 12 international country leaders, 128 current and former politicians and public officials and never before seen details about 214,000 companies. This size and scale of the documents including personal information, emails and lawyer's letters reveal details of individuals, lawsuits and corporations, all of which has so far checked out with public records and independent reporting by the Star.

There is a wide variety of discoveries:

- A Canadian art research firm deeply involved in fighting for possession of a $35-million Modigliani painting allegedly looted by the Nazis.
- The prime minister of Iceland, an island nation devastated economically by its failing banks in 2008, is linked in the leaked database to offshore companies.
- Indicted FIFA officials as well as soccer stars such as Lionel Messi who have used the offshore system.
- The families of top Chinese leaders have used clever and sophisticated ways to disguise their wealth offshore.
- Associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin secretly moved close to $2 billion through banks and shadow companies.

The Star and our partners, including France's Le Monde, Britain's Guardian, and the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, are publishing this material not because we believe something illegal is happening, but because we think Canadians should know about how the elite hide and shelter so much money. The rich get to play by different rules than the rest of us. We should all know about this unfairness.

Leaders' holdings detailed

An international coalition of media outlets on Sunday published what it said was an extensive investigation into the offshore financial dealings of the rich and famous, based on a vast trove of documents provided by an anonymous source.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalism, a non-profit organization based in Washington, said the cache of 11.5 million records detailed the offshore holdings of a dozen current and former world leaders, as well as businessmen, criminals, celebrities and sports stars.

The German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, which first received the data more than a year ago, said it was confident the material was genuine.

The data concerned internal documents from a Panama-based law firm, Mossack Fonseca.

Founded by German-born Juergen Mossack, the firm has offices across the globe and is among the world's biggest creators of shell companies, the newspaper said.

ICIJ said the law firm's leaked internal files contain information on 214,488 offshore entities connected to people in more than 200 countries and territories.

It said it would release the full list of companies and people linked to them early next month.

The ICIJ said the documents included emails, financial spreadsheets, passports and corporate records detailing how powerful figures used banks, law firms and offshore shell companies to hide their assets.

The data spanned a time frame of nearly 40 years, from 1977 through the end of 2015, it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS

Airport rebounds after violent attacks

It was an emotional send-off on Sunday for a Brussels Airlines plane heading to the Portuguese city of Faro — the first passenger flight to take off from Brussels Airport since suicide bombings on March 22 ripped through its check-in counters and killed 16 people.

Officials suggested the first flight out was a symbolic victory, but said it would be months until full service is back. Security at the airport was tight with new check-in procedures for passengers in temporary structures.

Two other planes were leaving Sunday — flights to Athens and Turin, Italy. The three flights were a test run for a European aviation hub that used to handle 600 flights a day and plans to slowly climb back to normal capacity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Rain, floods kill 45 in northwest Pakistan

Flash floods triggered by torrential rains Sunday killed at least 45 in northwest Pakistan, officials said.

Rains started overnight Saturday and caused flash flooding in several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said a Pakistani national disaster management official, Latif ur Rehman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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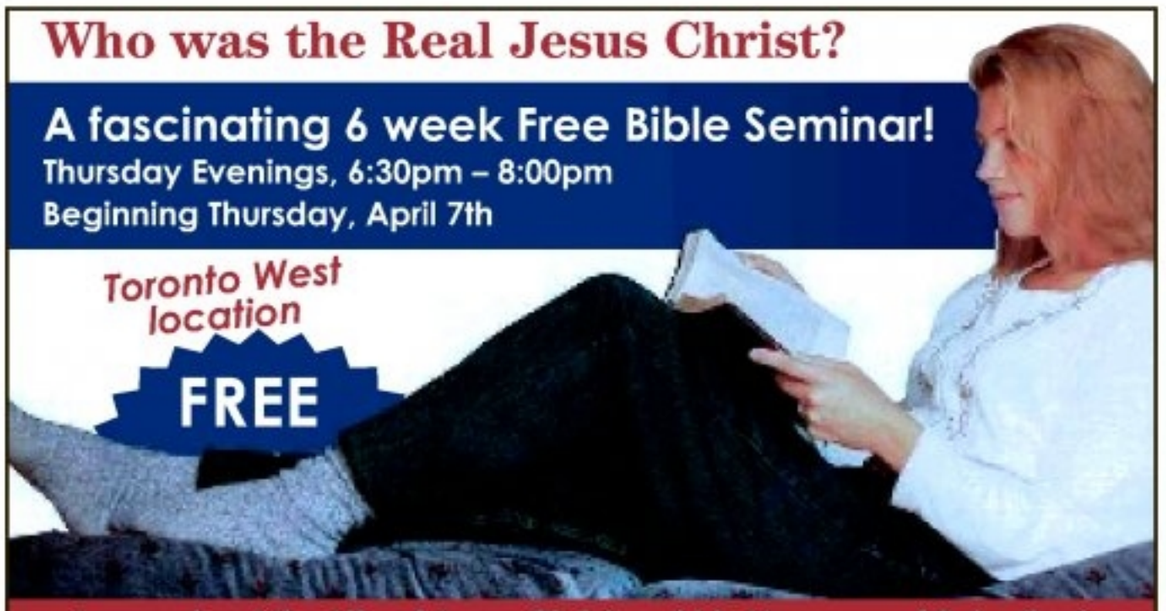

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- Was Jesus tempted to sin like we are?
- Was Jesus the son of God or the son of Joseph?
- Was the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus predicted in detail hundreds of years prior?
- What was the purpose of Jesus Christ anyway?
- What did Jesus really teach?
- Did Jesus really offer his followers the promise of eternal life in Heaven?
- Did Jesus actually perform miracles?
- Will Jesus Christ return to the earth in the future as some claim?

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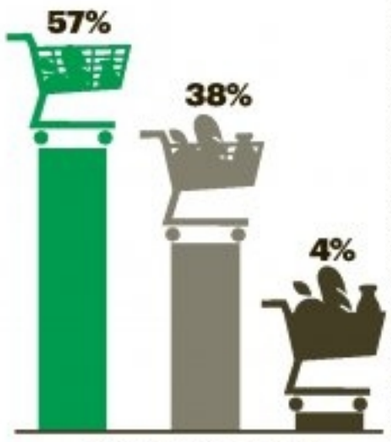
Struggling with price of food

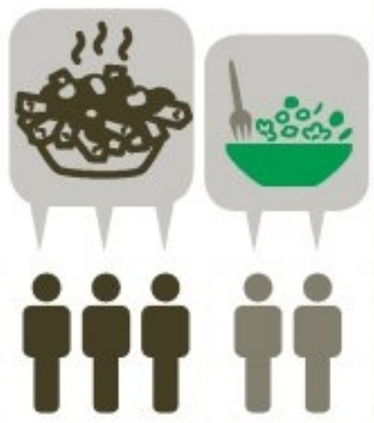
ECONOMY

More people are making unhealthy sacrifices: Poll

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver



More than half of all Canadians say it's become more difficult to afford to feed their households in the last year. Just 4 per cent say it's easier



In addition to switching to cheaper brands when shopping (71%), two-in-five (40%) say they've been choosing less healthy options in the aisle

Two-in-three Canadians (63%) say rising food prices haven't been receiving enough attention from Canada's leaders, and more than half (53%) say the issue is "one of the most important" facing the country today

GRAPHIC BY ANDRES PLANA/METRO

Canadians are overwhelmingly feeling the pinch at the supermarket, according to a new poll.

The survey, conducted by the Angus Reid Institute, found that 57 per cent of people across Canada believe it's become more difficult to afford food and feed their families within the last year.

That number goes up in regions that have been gripped in economic turmoil, like Alberta where two-thirds of people say paying for groceries has become more difficult.

What's striking about the findings, said Angus Reid Institute executive director Shachi Kurl, is that squeeze is being felt across all economic spectrums.

"What we found is that regardless of income levels, it is getting harder for people to feed their families and deal with the price of food," Kurl said.

"It's not surprising that people at lower income levels are finding it to be more difficult, but people who are in that middle class level, or even higher, are also replying it is (more difficult). That's something that really stood out."

While economists use job creation and the ups-and-downs of markets as the main telltale on the state of the economy, Kurl said people's thoughts on food prices provide a "basic and visceral" lens into affordability issues.

The growing cost of food has meant the majority of Canadians are altering their spending habits, and not always to their benefit.

Forty-two per cent of respondents admit they've cut back on fruit and vegetable purchases, while 40 per cent say they've chosen less healthy options because they tend to be cheaper.

A vast majority, 71 per cent, says they've switched to cheaper brands in an effort to save money, while 61 per cent of shoppers have cut back on meat due to high prices.

Eight per cent of respondents have turned to food banks for help.

Whether prices reach a breaking point is dependent on individuals' circumstances, but the survey found a wide-consensus that elected politicians should be doing more to address food affordability.

Sixty-three per cent believe the issue isn't receiving enough attention from political leaders.

> **Regardless of income levels, it is getting harder for people to feed their families.** Shachi Kurl

TECHNOLOGY

B.C. firm targeting online trolls

As online communities come under the attack of cyberbullies, racist speech and spam, a British Columbia tech firm has developed technology to keep the trolls under the bridge.

Community Sift, based in Kelowna, has built digital armour for social media and gaming companies trying to protect their virtual worlds. The chat filter and moderation tool examines real-time website commentary, chat room conversations and banter between game players.

"We're not just talking about four-letter words," said CEO Chris Priebe, a senior programmer and security specialist. "We want to get rid of bullying across the entire Internet."

The firm's technology advances a global campaign against digital abuse in part spurred by the 2012 suicide of Amanda Todd, a teenager from Port Coquitlam, B.C., who was victimized by online sexual exploitation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, April 4, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
ON A SUDDEN VICTORY FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

Last Thursday came the amazing announcement from P.E.I.'s premier that decades of anti-abortion policies in the province were over — a truly stunning about-face for a province that has long tied itself in knots to placate pro-life voices.

In the end, abortion access in P.E.I. came down to the threat of a lawsuit.

For years, the province's Liberal government had been arguing it was doing right by women, offering to pay for them to have elective abortions at one of two pre-approved hospitals in other provinces. Travel and food costs? Not covered. Never mind lost wages or childcare.

In a stance that hadn't changed (no matter the political stripes of the ruling party) since 1988, when the Supreme Court struck down Canada's abortion law, P.E.I. has been governed by the contrarian Resolution 17. It states "life begins at conception, and any policy that permits abortion is unacceptable" (though it does allow abortions when the mother's life is at risk).

The lawsuit, announced in January and viewed by some as a last-ditch effort, claimed that all this violated P.E.I. women's charter rights. It was expected to drag on for years and run up a $100,000 bill.

But then, last Thursday, came the rather amazing announcement from P.E.I.'s premier that decades of anti-abortion policies in the province were over.

Amazing because the last safe, elective, in-province abortion occurred in 1982. Amazing because a decades-long fight ended with a sudden government announcement.

"Based on legal advice that current policies regarding access to in-province abortion services would likely be in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, government determined that the most responsible approach is to revise the policy rather than embark on a long and costly court case," Premier Wade MacLauchlan said. In other words: "Uncle." Just like that.

And in the nick of time: The province had until next Friday to respond to the lawsuit's allegations. The premier himself admitted the suit had forced the government's hand. Abortion access could be up and running by the end of the year, he said.

SAYING 'UNCLE' P.E.I. Premier Wade MacLauchlan announced his government will not fight a legal challenge launched by the group Abortion Access Now JOHN MORRIS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It is a truly stunning about-face for a province that has long tied itself in knots to placate pro-life voices. It did not offer in-province abortions when Health P.E.I.'s own investigation showed such a move would save money, in 2013. It did not agree to in-province abortions when a Washington-based organization offered to ship in doctors to perform them, in 2014. It did not offer in-province abortions when a 2014 research study found the province's system was harmful to women.

But that research would greatly inform the lawsuit. And the lawsuit would break the camel's back.

Colleen MacQuarrie, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Prince Edward Island, was a teenager when the last elective abortion was performed. She remembers "a very rancorous public campaign of shaming women and eradicating access to safe abortions."

Rancorous, and effective.

But while MacQuarrie has been a feminist activist for years, it wasn't until 2010 that she began to focus on abortion in earnest. She created a community-based research project to investigate the impact of P.E.I's abortion policies over the last 20 years.

She had waited until she had tenure, so that she'd be protected from any political blowback in a fight that she by then understood was political at heart.

That year, 2010, the province created Health P.E.I., a single body responsible for all publicly funded health-care services on the island. Decades earlier, individual "therapeutic abortion committees" at various P.E.I. hospitals had been disbanded under pressure from pro-life groups. But Health P.E.I offered a new, single and effective target for abortion-rights activism.

MacQuarrie describes a swell of community support for her research, which spawned Abortion Access Now PEI, the group that brought the lawsuit, with the support of the national women's-rights non-profit Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF).

Via interviews, including with two dozen women who had sought abortions, the study revealed that women found the system needlessly complicated and "intensely punishing." Some women were blocked outright from getting abortions, "others self-induced through painful procedures at home," according to a summary of the findings.

"The lawyers drew extensively on the work in the community" to build their case, MacQuarrie said. Her research became legal evidence. And that evidence was so convincing that P.E.I. balked at challenging it in court.

Which means, in the end, it came down to women's voices, carefully collected, forcefully broadcast. "More than once they said, 'I've never told anyone and I'm only telling you this now so it will change for the next woman,'" MacQuarrie said.

P.E.I. had "callously compromised women's health for political expediency," MacQuarrie said, showing it didn't "give a care" about the women's experiences and suffering. But the broad-based and rowing abortion-rights activists on P.E.I. had a single, clearly definable goal. They pursued it doggedly.

And while it seems uncanny, on some level, that such a fierce battle could end with such a simple white flag, it is also instructive. You can lose for decades, and then, spectacularly: You win.

In the end, it came down to women's voices, carefully collected, forcefully broadcast.

Catherine McKenna's candid talk on carbon is blunt for a politician

Tim Harper

You can leaf through a calendar and point to a number of spots where a Liberal government seemingly on cruise control is heading for some heavy weather.

You can choose assisted suicide or electoral reform or the future of health care — but if you bet on a national carbon pricing regime and a battle over a pipeline heading east from Alberta as the toughest challenges in the near-term you would probably win a few bucks.

Catherine McKenna, the federal environment minister, made that clear at the just-concluded Broadbent Institute's Progress Summit where she delivered the type of blunt talk one doesn't come to expect from politicians.

She sat on a panel with two other women — and that in itself was both notable and positive. Alberta environment minister Shannon Phillips and Vancouver city councillor Andrea Reimer joined her and they all spoke of collaboration, respectful discussion and "tantrum-free zones" as the way ahead on climate change.

But Phillips reminded the Ottawa crowd that people are hurting in her province, that $10 billion in royalty revenues have disappeared, that good-paying oilpatch jobs are gone, that homes and vehicles are being lost, that domestic violence is rising and charitable donations are down.

McKenna wants to lead the transition to a low-carbon economy, but she is dealing with diverse provincial economies, raw political sensibilities and those in the oilpatch who are not just hurting economically but are starting to believe this Liberal government would just as soon leave the bitumen in the ground and move ahead without them.

"I'm a realist on this. There are a lot of people who have lost jobs in Alberta," McKenna said. "That doesn't mean we destroy our planet, but we need to be thoughtful of how we move forward."

And she also realistically told the audience that there are still many Canadians who don't see climate change as a threat.

The federal government is the regulator and it can impose its carbon will on the provinces, but bringing the federal hammer down is a great way to split the country, McKenna knows.

"If we do something overnight that has a huge, immediate dislocating effect on the economy where tons of people lose jobs, I'm losing everyone. I'm losing them," she said.

And she acknowledged the political dynamite her government is handling.

"I get nervous about the way the conversations sometimes go, that it's east versus west," she said. "There will be hard conversations."

Here's hoping they are also "tantrum-free."

Tim Harper is a national affairs columnist for the Toronto Star.

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When the moment's expected

BIG WINNER

The Weeknd takes home five trophies at Juno Awards

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

As far as weekends go, the Weeknd had a great one.

The Ontario-born performer, pictured below, took home five Juno Awards, including single of the year and album of the year.

Though he's notoriously media-shy — he didn't even show up at the Saturday night gala where he won his first three awards, and declined to speak to press during the broadcast awards on Sunday — Abel Tesfaye's fans couldn't be silenced.

Waves of applause followed his acceptance speeches and mid-show performance, where he sang a medley of Acquainted and Might Not for the first time on television.

The crowd's enthusiasm was apparent during the night, but especially during newcomer Alessia Cara's performance of her hit single Here. The 19-year-old performed the song amid a tableau of performers set against the tepid house party described in her lyrics.

Cara took home the breakthrough artist of the year award.

Alessia Cara performs at the Juno Awards In Calgary. ALL PHOTOS: CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Of the nominees, which included Scott Helman and Francesco Yates, Cara was the most searched name on Google in the past year. Following her win that number increased by eight times. She entered the press room backstage with a nervous energy, laughing off the fact she couldn't hear reporter questions as a marching band decided to play at just that moment.

"I still feel nervous, and I'm so sweaty," she laughed, pointing out this is the first award acceptance speech she's every made.

"It's insane. It doesn't feel like it's real, I was telling my mom, it doesn't feel like it's happening."

It looked like Cara would have to share the limelight though — specifically with Walk Off the Earth, which won group of the year and brought a band member's son onstage.

The little boy, Giorgio, was sporting pink and orange ear buds, presumably because the venue was so loud.

Country album of the year, was presented by rapper Kardinal Offishall and Indian-Canadian comedian Jus Reign, who made light of the fact they knew little about country music.

The award was won by Dean Brody for Gypsy Road. The self-described quiet guy found himself talking quite a bit after accepting his award on stage.

"I think adrenalin has a lot to do with it, your heart's going wha-bum-bum-bum-bum," he laughed. "I don't have a lot to say on any different day."

The award show packed the Scotiabank Saddledome. More than 12,000 tickets were sold.

WINNERS

Many of the awards were handed out at a Junos Gala Saturday night.

- Justin Bieber took pop album of the year for Purpose and Drake won rap recording of the year for If You're Reading This It's Too Late.
- Death from Above 1979 won rock album of the year for The Physical World, the band's first studio release in a decade after breaking up for several years.
- Cree singer/songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie's latest Power in the Blood claimed two awards for aboriginal album and contemporary roots album of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

A brilliant combo of murder and humour

THE SHOW: American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson, Season 1, Episode 9 (FX)
THE MOMENT: The would-be screenwriter

A dozen high-priced attorneys for accused murderer O.J. Simpson sit at a conference table discussing new evidence: A woman in North Carolina has interview tapes of L.A. police detective Mark Fuhrman making racist remarks. The camera pans from close-up to close-up on each speaker.

"Why didn't she sell them to the media?" asks Robert Shapiro (John Travolta).

"She'd rather sell her screenplay," replies Robert Kardashian (David Schwimmer). "She's a wannabe screenwriter. She couldn't make a living in L.A., so she moved to North Carolina to teach screenwriting."

"I don't understand," says Barry Scheck (Rob Morrow), who's from Boston — the only out-of-towner in the room. "How can you teach screenwriting if you can't sell a script?"

The camera swoops up to look down on the whole table, as everyone answers his question at once: "Ah, come on, happens all the time," etc.

This moment filled me with cackling delight. A Hollywood punchline, in the middle of a deadly serious development — that is the kind of brilliance this show delivers week after week.

The scene is both a private joke for real screenwriters, and a piece of biting commentary: Everyone wants what L.A. offers, even if they have to move somewhere else to imitate it.

Similarly, this series is both a thoroughly reported account of the Simpson trial, and a contemporary everystory about how our stubborn opinions and reverence for fame willingly blind us to facts. (Donald Trump, anyone?).

Sadly, the last episode airs Tuesday. I'm going to miss it like a person.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

David Schwimmer plays high-powered lawyer Robert Kardashian in The People v. O.J. Simpson. CONTRIBUTED

Netflix to crack down on virtual border hopping

Netflix is tired of scofflaws streaming its original shows, such as Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, for free. ERIC LIEBOWITZ/NETFLIX

STREAMING

Third-party firm may target pirates, private networks

Canadian Netflix subscribers are the only ones who can't peek into the halls of Degrassi: Next Class. Viewers in Africa and Turkey can't see how the prisoners at Litchfield penitentiary are faring in Orange is the New Black.

Not all Netflix libraries were created equal due to international copyright and content licensing restrictions.

Some web-savvy folks have overcome those obstacles by streaming pirated content for free or using a virtual private network (VPN) to trick Netflix into streaming the shows and movies available in another country.

But it seems Netflix is tired of it. The company is cracking down on piracy and digital border hopping amid a global expansion that only omits China, Syria and Crimea.

Netflix has reportedly hired Vobile Inc., a company that helps firms protect their original content on the web, to tackle its piracy woes.

Over roughly the past four months, Vobile filed more than 350 takedown notices to Google, according to Lumen, a Harvard University Berkman Center for Internet and Society project studying online content takedown requests. The notices ask Google to remove the suspected URLs from its search results.

These requests pinpointed more than 96,000 URLs, according to Google's transparency report, many of which host streams to Netflix's original shows like House of Cards. Vobile did not respond to request for comment. But both Lumen and Google connect Vobile to the copyright owner Netflix2.

The company also seems to have stepped up its efforts to prevent customers from using VPNs.

"In coming weeks, those using proxies and unblockers will only be able to access the service in the country where they currently are," David Fullagar, Netflix's vice-president of content delivery architecture, wrote in January. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF 'BUBBLES' ACTOR CHARGED

Lucy DeCoutere leaves Trailer Park Boys after co-star charged with assault

Actor Lucy DeCoutere says she has resigned from the Trailer Park Boys just hours after one of its principal actors denied assaulting a woman in the U.S.

DeCoutere, who co-stars in the show, testified against Jian Ghomeshi in the former CBC host's highly publicized sexual assault trial.

Mike Smith, known for playing Bubbles on the cult comedy show, was charged with a misdemeanour in Los Angeles on Friday.

Posts on DeCoutere's Twitter account said she was resigning from the show, saying it was linked with the allegation against Smith, adding she had spoken with both her co-star and the alleged victim. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lucy DeCoutere CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Annick crushes consumer debt

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metromoney

THE CHALLENGE: Annick, 24 and from Calgary and Yolanda, 27 and from Mississauga, have only two weeks left in Metro's 12-week financial Makeover. Financial guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie is helping these women break bad financial habits, eliminate their debt and start saving and investing for the future. Can these young women reach their net worth goals (assets minus liabilities)? Follow us @LesleyScorgie #MetroMoneyMakeover

THIS WEEK: Annick finally gets a financial break. Unlike previous years in which she's had to pay Canada Revenue Agency, after filing her taxes for 2015, she's received a sizable refund.

NEXT WEEK: Yolanda and Annick have overhauled their finances, but has it been enough to steer their financial ships in a better direction? We're going to showcase their money milestones and identify financial pitfalls they'll need to avoid as we conclude the Metro Money Makeover

Annick is all smiles after decimating her consumer debt.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO CALGARY

THE SITUATION

It's almost enough to bring someone to tears — the day they become debt free. Minus her student loan, that happened for Annick late last week!

She's been lugging around thousands of dollars in loans and credit card balances for years due to the high costs of her education, setting up her home here in Canada (she's originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo), a few too many splurges on shoes and concert tickets (Beyoncé being the latest), and dealing with Alberta's rotten economy.

H&R Block's Caroline Battista agreed to meet with Annick about her taxes a few weeks ago and quickly uncovered unused tuition credits from 2012. When combined with her contributions to her group RRSP through work and other applicable tax credits, a refund of $2,780 was issued to Annick. The government immediately clawed back $280 of the refund because of last year's taxes owing. But with the remaining $2,500, Annick hasn't wasted a single moment. She's paid off her credit card balances of $1,675 and other loans totalling $350. This has left her with $475 from which she can apply the one third rule: 1/3 to savings, 1/3 to her student loan and 1/3 to spend how she wishes.

THE LESSON

The moment a person becomes consumer debt-free, their monthly cash flow transforms. In Annick's case, she was ploughing $750 to $900 per month towards her debts and now she can use that money towards other goals such as building a down payment for her first home or eventually returning to school to complete graduate studies in business. Rather than waking up with the weight of financial worry on her chest, she can start dreaming about her future.

The next three months will be critical for Annick. The temptation to spend her newfound cash flow is huge. It's generally the period of time in which a person either reverts back to old, and unhealthy, financial habits, or they learn the lessons permanently and never return.

The unknown for Annick is whether she's suffered enough financial hardship to learn that financial freedom only comes to those who are willing to work for it and to those who don't repeat the same financial mistakes.

NET WORTH

Assets	Dec.	April
RRSP	350	1,000
Total Assets		**$1,000**
Liabilities		
Student Loan	58,800	58,200
Visa	1,500	0
MasterCard	650	0
Other Loans	1,600	0
Taxes	250	0
Total Liabilities		**($58,200)**
Net worth		**($57,200)**

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

Your mortgage payment is far from your only expense when owning a home. ISTOCK

There are hidden costs to home ownership

PROS AND CONS

Dispelling the myth that renters are wasting money

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Home ownership may have been sold as the Canadian dream, but it's not for everyone.

So how do you know if ownership is the thing for you or if renting will serve your needs the best? First, have you got the cash flow to make home ownership work?

When people say that home ownership costs the same as renting they're talking out their hats.

I live in a fully-paid-for home and it cost me $1,400 a month to carry my house in 2015.

There are property taxes, insurance, utilities and maintenance. Ah, maintenance, the part of the equation everyone wants to sweep under the rug. But if you do, you shouldn't be surprised when your most expensive indulgence comes tumbling down around your ears.

Do the math:

1. Figure out what you'd likely spend to buy a place of your own.
2. Calculate the mortgage payment.
3. Add in the property taxes (monthly, you can estimate $400), utilities (need an estimate? Try $250/mo.), property insurance (I pay about $120/month) and maintenance (estimate $400/month for now, it probably needs to be more, but that's a start). That's what it'll cost you to carry your new home.
4. Subtract the rent you're currently paying and put the difference into a high-interest savings account every single month.

If you can do that without missing a step — and that means not using your credit card or line of credit or overdraft protection to fill the gap — then you're ready to start planning for home ownership.

If not, keep renting. Next, think about whether you want to put down roots or like being able to pick up and go when the opportunity arises. Is relocating for work a thing you'd consider? If so, the costs of buying and selling may be prohibitive.

The sales commission, closing costs, legal fees and land transfer taxes can wipe out any equity you've built up, assuming the market has been going up in your area.

And if the market has taken a turn for the worse just when you're pulling up roots, you'll have to swallow the loss.

It's time to stop thinking that people who don't have home ownership as a goal are lacking in ambition, unmotivated, or lower than the belly of a snake.

Sure, home ownership works for some people. For others, it doesn't, plain and simple.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

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metro SPORT

North Carolina will look for its sixth NCAA title when the Tar Heels meet the Villanova Wildcats, trying for their second, on Monday night

Troy's flying start

OPENING DAY

Tulo homers, Stroman goes eight strong in victory No. 1

SUNDAY At Tampa Bay

5	3
JAYS	RAYS

Marcus Stroman outpitched Chris Archer in his first opening day start, helping the Toronto Blue Jays begin defence of their first AL East title in 22 years with a 5-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Sunday.

Stroman allowed three runs and six hits over eight-plus innings for the Blue Jays, who won 93 games in 2015 before making a run to the AL Championship Series in their first playoff appearance since 1993.

Troy Tulowitzki hit the first home run of the 2016 MLB season, a two-run shot for Toronto. Edwin Encarnacion had two hits and drove in two runs after not having an at-bat in a major league exhibition all spring training because of injuries.

The Blue Jays, the highest-scoring team in the majors last year, struck quickly on Encarnacion's two-run single in the first.

Archer struck out a Rays opening-day record 12 in five innings. But Encarnacion got him early and Kevin Pillar added an RBI single in the fourth. The right-hander limited the Blue Jays to five hits, but walked three during a 107-pitch outing.

Evan Longoria had two hits and drove in Tampa Bay's first run with a third-inning single. Off-season acquisition Corey Dickerson added a solo homer off Stroman leading off the ninth and Kevin Kiermaier drove in the final run charged to the starter with a bloop single off Roberto Osuna.

Osuna got the last three outs for the save.

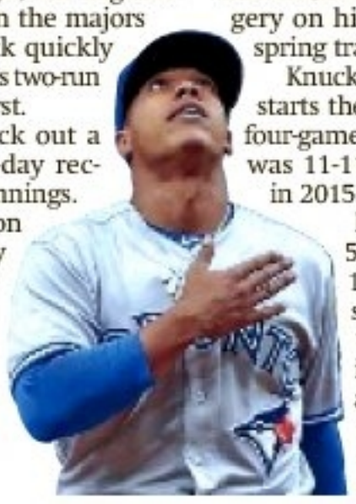
At 24 years, 338 days old, Stroman became the third-youngest pitcher to make an opening day start for the Blue Jays.

He earned the assignment after making just four starts, going 4-0 with a 1.67 ERA, in 2015, when he missed most of the season after undergoing surgery on his left knee during spring training.

Knuckleballer R.A. Dickey starts the second game of a four-game series Monday. He was 11-11 with a 3.91 ERA in 2015.

Lefty Drew Smyly, 5-2 with, 3.11 ERA in 12 starts last season, starts Monday. He's 1-0 with a 1.10 ERA in five career appearances, including two starts, against Toronto.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

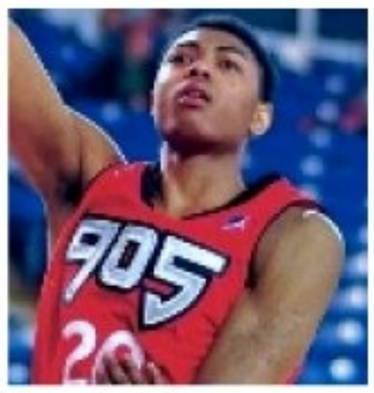


Marcus Stroman GETTY IMAGES

Troy Tulowitzki hit the first home run of the Major League Baseball season in Sunday's 2016 opener against the Rays in St. Petersburg, Fla. BRIAN BLANCO/GETTY IMAGES

BASKETBALL

D-League delivers for Raptors' future



Bruno Caboclo GETTY IMAGES

It was a much-needed step in the evolution of the Toronto Raptors franchise, somewhat rushed because it was so vital to the growth of players and the organization, and now that the first year of Raptors 905 is in the books, the value of the Mississauga-based D-League team is wildly evident.

Norman Powell, who played a handful of games with the 905, is starting for the parent club as it prepares for the NBA playoffs. Lucas Nogueira and Delon Wright have made contributions to both teams. Bruno Caboclo found a place to play regularly and his incremental improvement continues. In short, the Raptors 905 did what they were asked to do.

"As the season went along and we got comfortable with the processes, just kind of getting into the flow of the season, everything really smoothed out and we kind of got it rolling at the end," Dan Tolzman, the 905 general manager said at his end-of-season media session.

On the court, the expansion franchise evolved precisely as expected. Despite being thrown together in about a six-month period, the team finished 23-27, sixth in the East. They drew a respectable average crowd of 3,104 over 25 home dates at the Hershey Centre.

From the day the idea was hatched in Masai Ujiri's mind, the D-League was about development.

"That's the only way in this day and age where you can win now and develop," 905 coach Jesse Murmys said. "We've fortunately been able to do both and develop valuable assets for the future of our team."

Of all the developmental issues that were important with the advent of the 905, none were greater than Caboclo, still an intriguing prospect who is only in his second year of North American basketball and North American life.

"The fire that he's now playing with is something you'd never see before and he's now building confidence . . . he knows that he's good enough and he's getting closer to being ready for the NBA level," Tolzman said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL

Lindberg the latest Leaf to blossom

Maple Leafs rookie Tobias Lindberg TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Toronto Maple Leafs enter the final week of their season having given their fans a glimpse of the future with a wide showcase of prospects, led by William Nylander, Nikita Soshnikov, and Zach Hyman.

Swedish winger Tobias Lindberg made his NHL debut this week, with his family flying in to help celebrate the moment. Lindberg, while not quite getting the fanfare of top prospects, plays a two-way game that could be just as valuable under Mike Babcock's vision.

"I consider myself a two-way player," Lindberg said. "The coaching staff has been watching video with me every day, showing me what I need to do to get better."

The six-foot-three Lindberg is a big body who understands the importance of defensive zone play. That was instilled by Leafs assistant coach D.J. Smith, who coached him last season during the Oshawa Generals' Memorial Cup run.

"D.J. made me play defence a lot last year and I learned a lot from that," Lindberg said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLB FINANCES

Dodgers still biggest spenders

Baseball's average salary rose 4.4 per cent to $4.38 million on opening day, according to a study of contract terms, and the Los Angeles Dodgers topped spending for the third straight season.

The Chicago Cubs boosted payroll by $51 million, adding Jason Heyward, John Lackey and Ben Zobrist in an effort to win their first title since 1908. After beating the Cubs in the NLCS and losing to Kansas City in the World Series, the New York Mets hiked spending by nearly $38 million.

Houston, coming off its first playoff appearance in a decade, raised payroll by almost $26 million after starting last season with the lowest in the major leagues, and St. Louis also rose by nearly the same amount.

Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw, at $33 million, is the highest-paid player for the second straight year. Former teammate Zack Greinke, who left to sign with Arizona, is second at $31.8 million, followed by David Price who left the Jays for Boston in the off-season, at $30 million.

The Dodgers began the season at $233.9 million, down from a record $270.2 million when 2015 began. The New York Yankees, No. 1 for 15 straight years before the Dodgers' payroll surge, are second at $225 million followed by Detroit ($196 million), Boston ($190 million) and San Francisco ($173 million).

The Blue Jays, in the first year of new president Mark Shapiro's reign, come in 13th with at $140 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIRATE PARTY

Francisco Liriano tied a Pirates opening day record by striking out 10 and singled home the first run of the 2016 Major League Baseball season for good measure, sending Pittsburgh past the St. Louis Cardinals 4-1 on Sunday.

His RBI hit in the second came off Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright.

David Freese, the 2011 World Series MVP for the Cardinals, had two hits against his former club in his debut with Pittsburgh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Foxes captain Wes Morgan leaps over Southampton's Jose Fonte during Sunday's Premier League match at The King Power Stadium in Leicester. LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

Feeling entitled

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester City's lead grows to 7-points with 6 games to go

After a fourth successive 1-0 victory sent Leicester into a seven-point lead, some giddy fans started to unfurl Premier League "champions" scarves in the King Power Stadium.

Although there are still six games remaining after Sunday's gritty win over Southampton, celebrations are already underway in this unassuming central England town.

When you've experienced the roller-coaster of emotions endured by followers of Leicester, it is little wonder they can't wait for the unlikeliest of Premier League title parties next month.

Exactly a year ago, Leicester was braced for relegation while stranded seven points from safety at the bottom of the Premier League.

The standings on Sunday showed Leicester seven points clear at the right end, looking down on north London teams Tottenham and Arsenal, and Manchester rivals City and United.

Leicester captain Wes Morgan secured Sunday's victory with his first goal of the season on the eve of the first anniversary of the start of the great escape.

It was the April 4, 2015 triumph over West Ham that sparked a startling resurgence. Six of the final nine games of last season were won as Leicester not only beat the drop but gained the confidence that has been carried into this season.

April 4 is also the birthday of the Thai retail tycoon who has owned Leicester for six years and will surely be the first chairman in the club's 132-year history to lift the English topflight trophy in May. Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha was serenaded by his players on Sunday with a "Happy Birthday" greeting his pre-match arrival in the dressing room. Outside the stadium, fans were treated to free beer and doughnuts by him — adding to the joyful atmosphere. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"We must stay with our feet on the ground because ... all the matches are very, very tough, very difficult**
> Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri

SOCCER

Top clubs deny links to doping

Premier League clubs Arsenal, Chelsea and Leicester emphatically dismissed any links to doping on Sunday after being embroiled in an investigation into a doctor alleged to have prescribed performance-enhancing substances.

The doctor, Mark Bonar, was secretly filmed by The Sunday Times saying he has treated more than 150 athletes in the last six years with banned substances. A British government-mandated investigation is set to look into Bonar and how the country's anti-doping agency handled allegations against him in 2014.

Bonar used Twitter on Sunday to call the Sunday Times reports "false and very misleading."

"I have never had a relationship with any premier football club or player," he tweeted. "I have never prescribed Androgen (hormone) therapy for the purpose of performance enhancement. I treat symptomatic men with low test levels."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Koe's Canada roll to 3-0

It was a perfect weekend in the standings for Canada at the men's world curling championship, even it wasn't always perfection on the ice.

Canada improved to 3-0 with a 10-9 win over the United States in the late draw at Basel's St. Jakobshalle arena. It was Canada's second extra-end win of the day, as Kevin Koe and his Calgary rink put themselves in situations where they had to make tough, high pressure shots to win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

West Indies bedevil England with 6-6-6-6

Carlos Brathwaite struck four straight sixes in the last over of the World Twenty20 cricket final to seal a dramatic four-wicket win for West Indies over England on Sunday in Kolkata, India.

West Indies needed 19 runs in the 20th over which Brathwaite (34 not out) provided in style by smashing Ben Stokes for sixes off the first four balls.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF

Herman Masterful in Houston victory

Jim Herman delivered a major performance at just the right time Sunday in the Shell Houston Open.

Herman, winless in 105 previous starts on the PGA Tour, chipped in for birdie on the par-3 16th and finished with two solid pars for a 4-under 68 and a one-shot victory that sends him to the Masters for the first time in his career.

Herman tapped in for par and thrust both fists in the air after his one-shot victory over Sweden's Henrik Stenson.

"Sorry for the tears, but I'm pretty happy," Herman said. "We really did a good job keeping our game plan.... And geez, look what happened. Never thought it was possible."

The Houston Open was the final opportunity for players to get into the Masters, and Herman seemed like a long shot at No. 191 in the world whose only professional victory was six years ago at the Moonah Classic in Australia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Thai chicken curry

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you can get your hands on fish sauce, it really does make a difference in the depth of flavour in this (and many other) creamy, not-too-spicy curry.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes

Ingredients
- 3 Tbsp vegetable or coconut oil
- 3 Tbsp curry paste
- Pinch ground cumin and ground coriander
- 1 1/2 cups (350 ml) coconut milk
- 1 1/2 lb (750g) chicken thighs or breasts, cut into chunks
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 2 Tbsp fish sauce
- 1 Tbsp lime leaves (optional)
- 2 Tbsp peanut butter
- Pinch salt
- Fresh coriander, chopped
- Lime wedges, to serve

Directions

1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Fry the curry paste and spices for a couple of minutes

2. Add 1/3 of the coconut milk and reduce the heat. Add the chicken and stir until the spices and milk combine.

3. Add the remaining coconut milk then stir in the sugar, fish sauce and lime leaves. Bring the sauce to the boil, simmer for a few minutes then add the peanut butter and salt.

4. Simmer for 20 minutes. Garnish with the chopped coriander and serve with the lime wedges.

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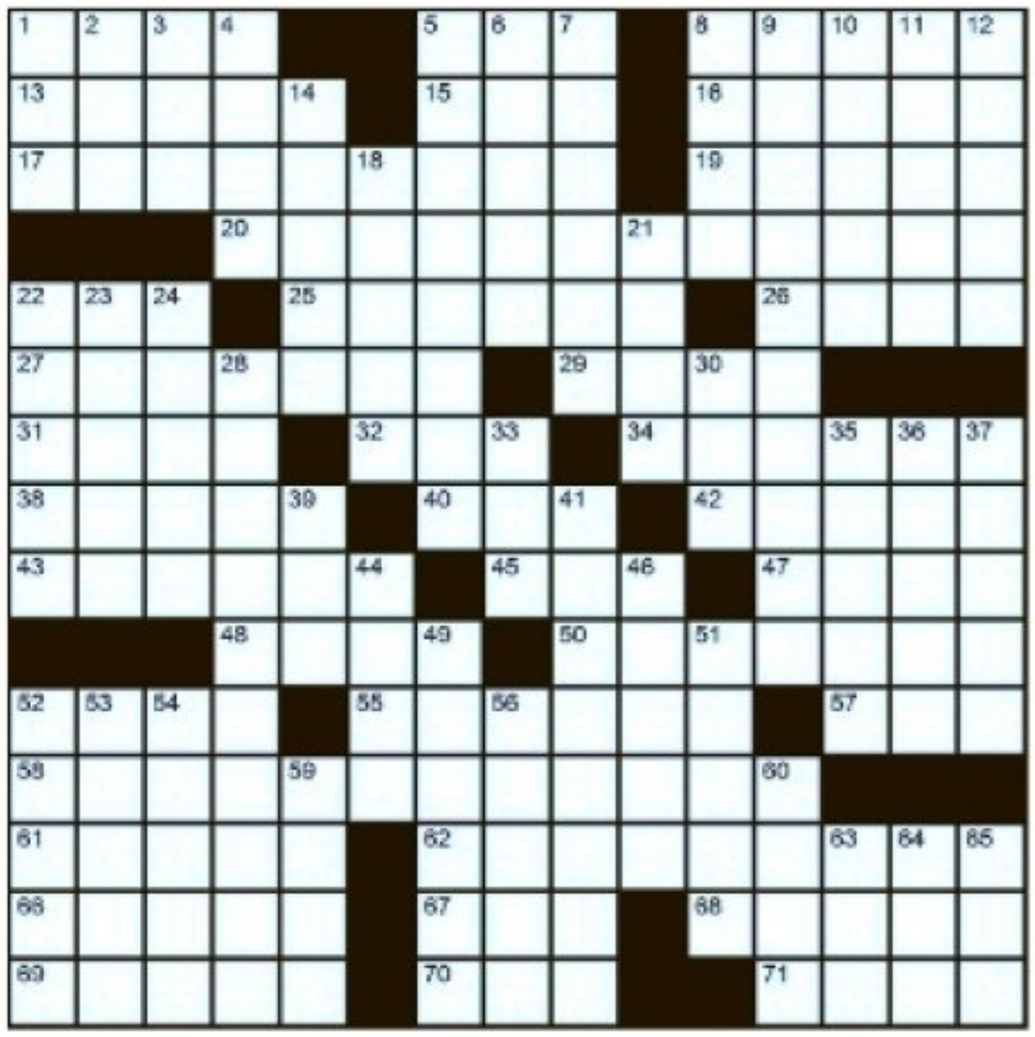
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Unfeeling
5. One of WWW's Ws
8. Ms. Bombeck's
13. Burning
15. Plastic __ Band
16. Pastoral print
17. Lululemon selections: 2 wds.
19. House of Henry VIII
20. Hotel casino in Las Vegas: 2 wds.
22. Word variety, briefly
25.British soap opera, to fans
26. "__ Rebel" by The Crystals
27. Disney 'work' song
29. Have __ '__' (Know 'somebody')
31. Earth goddess in Das Rheingold
32. Vienna is its cap.
34. Tip-offs
38. New World citizens, e.g.
40. Canuck band, __ 41
42. Contempt
43. "Zip-a-Dee-__-__"
45. __-Oil (Skin-care brand)
47. Bout ender, commonly
48. Old Testament bk.
50. "I Don't Feel Like Dancin'": __ Sisters hit
52. For instance, __ example
55. Wretched
57. Demolition blaster
58. Quebec headquarters of hardware chain Rona
61. Prefix to 'plasty' (Blood vessel procedure)
62. Band member's post-breakup venture: 2 wds.
66. Urals uh-uhs
67. __ out (Just manage)
68. Dainty denial
69. Screen legend Mr. Cooper's
70. Mr. Cruz
71. Gladiator's 1104

DOWN
1. Thwarter's vote
2. Martian's mini maneuveree
3. Aircraft in "Top Gun" (1986)
4. Talk big
5. Fantastic
6. Participate
7. __ and Herzegovina
8. Shakespeare: "__ __, Brute?"
9. Calgary __ (National Lacrosse League team)
10. Moose's girlfriend in Archie Comics
11. A Lesson from __ (Athol Fugard play)
12. Bed company
14. Era
18. 1973: "Elvis: __ from Hawaii"
21. "99 Luftballons" band
22. Out front
23. Skin doctor, fun-style
24. 'V' in VCR
28. Winnipeg neighbourhood; or, nickname of St. Catharines, Ontario: 2 wds.
30. French pronoun
33. Li'l long sandwich
35. Oven-made meal
36. See if the shirt is the right size: 2 wds.
37. Huff
39. Jazz instrument, commonly
41. Placed the 'Z' papers in the 'Y' folder
44. __ Sound (Fjordy locale on BC's coast northwest of Vancouver)
46. Eye-related prefix
49. Cape __, Nunavut
51. __ __ ease (Jittery)
52. Go out with __ __ (Depart with flair)
53. 1869: Character in War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy, __ Rostova
54. Boring tool
56. Conjure up
59. Brother on "Bonanza"
60. __ round (Tournament part)
63. Graduate's degree, e.g.
64. Single
65. Network in Dire Straits' "Money for Nothing"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Tread carefully today, because people are quarrelsome. Don't lose your temper or be self-indulgent with your emotions. Stay chill.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Relations with a female friend or a member of a group are dicey today, because emotions are hot and unstable. Arguments will break out easily. Avoid important topics.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Do not go toe to toe with an authority figure today, because you will regret it. Meanwhile, if someone overreacts with you, don't impulsively quit your day job. Be cool.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because people are quick to argue. You have to know when to hold and when to fold.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Disputes about shared property, inheritances and financial issues are emotionally loaded today. Postpone these talks for another day.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Be patient with partners and close friends, because arguments can break out easily today. That's because the Moon is at odds with fiery Mars, and everyone is looking for a fight.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Relations with co-workers will be challenged today. You will be best off by keeping your head down and your powder dry.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Parents need to be patient with their kids today, because everyone is prickly and inclined to argue. It's good to know that patience is the antidote to anger.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Moon is at odds with Mars in your sign today, which means family arguments could break out, especially with females. This won't happen if you keep your breezy sense of humour.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't be quick to argue with others today, especially siblings, relatives and neighbors. Arguments over sales agreements and negotiations might occur. Stay chill.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You might be distressed today about money or something you own, which could lead to an argument with someone. But will this solve anything? Try to relax.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with Mars at the top of your chart, which is a sure indication of arguments with parents, bosses and VIPs.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		3		1			4	
	2					3		9
1			2		7		8	
		5		8		4		
3			4		5			7
		9		7		1		
	8		9		3			1
4		6					5	
	1			6		2		

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5	9	2	1	4	8	3	7	6
3	8	4	7	6	9	5	2	1
1	7	6	5	2	3	8	4	9
7	2	5	4	3	1	6	9	8
6	4	9	8	5	2	1	3	7
8	3	1	9	7	6	2	5	4
9	5	8	3	1	7	4	6	2
2	1	3	6	9	4	7	8	5
4	6	7	2	8	5	9	1	3

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